



[11443/160]

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventor(s) : Michael WHITMAN et al.  
Serial No. : 10/785,672  
Filing Date : February 23, 2004  
For : SURGICAL CUTTING AND STAPLING DEVICE  
Group Art Unit : 3721  
Examiner : Gloria Weeks  
Confirmation No. : 2683

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Commissioner for Patents  
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Date: November 8, 2006

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Clifford A. Ulrich (Reg. 42,194)

**AMENDMENT**

S I R:

In response to the Final Office Action dated July 11, 2006, please amend the above-captioned application without prejudice as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 4 of this paper.